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REVIEW OF V. I. VLODAVETS' "VOLCANOES OF THE SOVIET UNION"

D. G. Panov

[A Digest]

In his book, Volcanoes of the Soviet Union, V. I. Vlodavets gives the first systematic survey of the various forms of volcanic activity in the USSR.

In the introduction the author discusses the nature of magma, the possible causes of vulcanism, types of volcanic activity, the morphology of volcanoes, and the nature of geysers and hot springs. The distribution of volcanic activity in the Soviet Union is then outlined.

The author also reviews the history of vulcanological studies in the USSR. This study was begun by S. P. Krasheninnikov with his description of the volcanoes of Kamchatka. Systematic stationary vulcanological studies were organized in 1935 at the Kamchatka Vulcanological Station of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

The description of contemporary volcanic activity begins with the volcanoes of Kamchatka, of which there are 13 active, nine dying, and 158 extinct. The characteristics of Kamchatka volcanoes are given on the basis of new studies, the individual eruptions are described in detail, and the development of the best studied volcanoes is traced. The presentation is well illustrated by photographs and drawings. This is by far the most detailed and systematic description of Kamchatka volcanoes in geographical literature. The author also describes the mud pots of Kamchatka, about which very little was known until recently.

Following this is a description of volcanoes in the Kurile Islands, which number 100, including 38 active ones. The extinct volcanoes of the Kuriles are distinguished by many different morphological types, each of which is illustrated by several examples.

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The following chapter is devoted to volcanic activity in the recent geological past. It describes processes of vulcanism in the Caucasus and Transcaucasus, the area around Lake Baykal and the Transbaykal, the central part of the northeast USSR, and the Far East.

The author then briefly reviews ancient volcanic activity in various parts of the USSR, beginning with the Kola peninsula and Arctic islands and ending with Sakhalin and the Commander Islands. This chapter is illustrated by an interesting diagram of the distribution in the USSR of ancient vulcanism of different geological ages which demonstrates the vast volcanic regions of the geological past. The total area in the USSR covered by products of volcanic activity in the past is calculated by the author to be 2,926,300 square kilometers, i.e., one seventh of the land surface of the USSR.

The book ends with a short bibliography of the more important literature on present and past vulcanism in the USSR. The maps appended to the book give the distribution of volcanoes on Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands with their names and their designation as active, extinct, or dying.

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